26 PAGES-LAST EDITION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1904. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR.

## First Collision Between Japs And Russians On Land.

### DEATH'S HARVEST ON LUCIN CUT-OFF.

Frightful Accident at Jackson Station on S. P. in Western. Utah.

#### TWENTY-SIX PERSONS KILLED.

Fatality Caused by Tremendous Explosion of Two Cars of Dynamite on A Freight Train.

HIT BY A CONSTRUCTION TRAIN.

Tragedy One of the Worst in This Section-Intense Excitement at Ogden, Home of Some of the Victims.

#### INQUEST AT JACKSON

THIS AFTERNOON. (Special to the "News.")

Ogden, Feb. 20 .- The latest reports indicate that25 persons were killed in the explosion at Jackson on the Southern Pacific Sheriff Josephson, County Atty. Peery, the coroner and a jury, all of Boxelder county, left for the scene at 9:45 this morning on a special train. It is a four hours' ride and the inquest cannot possibly end before night time. Neither will the bodies of the dead be brought to Ogden before

Further details of the accident are impossible at this hour, owing to the extreme reticence of the railroad officials. Not only do they refuse all information \$ concerning the tragic event, but newspapermen and all others, except officers of the law, are barred from passage over the cut-off to Jackson. The wire : being down at that point makes it still more difficult to get fresh . details of the disaster. No attempt has yet been made to fix the blame, in view of the meagerness of information.

McCart, the Greek interpreter, secured a pass this morning and went to Jackson to look out for the interests of his countrymen, 16 of whom were killed in the slaughter.

There has been no additional death today in Ogden. The in-jured are doing as well as possible at the general hospital.

Twenty-six were killed at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon by the explosion of two cars of powder-one containing black powder, the other dynamite-at Jackson, a small station on the Lucin cut-off, 85 miles west of Ogden, in this

THE DEAD. T. W. Burke, roadmaster; wife and

three children. J. W. Burke, track foreman. W. L. Haller, messenger, of Andrews,

Owen Dermody, conductor, of Beaver

Dam. Wis. Louis Contis, laborer, of Ogden.

Sixteen Greek section hands. A score or more were seriously in-jured, among them the following:

Taylor, telegraph operator at Jackson, and wife; injuries about head and body. — Leina, engineer; slight bruises. — Courtney, conductor; Stan-ton, engineer; Thurmens Caralos, Gust Canlike, George Catsamis, and four oth er Greek laborers.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT. The cause of the accident, the most serious that has occurred in this locality since the explosion in the Daly-West mine 19 months ago, was a collision of trains. A supply train running west from Ogden took the siding at Jackson to allow a water train of seven cars to pass, but stopped before the last car was clear of the main track. The water train came thundering on and in the inevitable collision struck the car containing the black power. The contents of this car exploded and ignited the car of giant powder.

WHOLE CAMP DESTROYED. At that, the surrounding country trembled and the town of Jackson, which was scarcely more than a camp

at the best, was wrecked beyond recognition. The depot, a five-room structure, was reduced to atoms. Five locomotives, standing in the vicinity, were blown up so completely that rearcely a piece was found large enough to indicate what it had belonged to to indicate what it had belonged to. Car wheels and scraps of iron were hurled through the walls of the depot building, and after it had been crushed into kindling wood, the ruins took fire, increasing the excitement and adding to the horror of the struction. to the horror of the situation. Everything that could burn did burn. Jackson very quickly became a blackened, charred prairie.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

Minutes that seemed hours passed be Minutes that seemed hours passed before the uninjured recovered their
stunned senses and started the work of
roscue. An engine was secured at Hogup and a train made up to convey the
injured to Ogden. Two of whom died
or the way in. They were Geo. Dermody
and Hallard, the mail clerk. The former did not live more than an hour after
the explosion. Hallard died as the relief train reached Lake station.

Union station dozens of carriages were in waiting to take the places of ambulances. This was at 10.30 last night. The sight was pathetic, especially so when the woman, Mrs. Taylor, was lifted out of the car, her head swathed in bandages. Only one man was able to walk unassisted. They all seemed to have met with injuries that will maim them for life.

them for life.
Considering the fact that neither of the trains in the collision was a pas-senger, the death list is startling. It would not have been one-half as large had not the Greek laborers been aboard. They were being transferred from one point to another.

SHOCK FELT FOR MILES.

Some idea of the force of the explo-sion is gained through the statements of telegraph operators at towns distant from the scene of disaster. At Terrace, fifteen miles to the north, the shock was terrific. Residents believed at first that terrific. Residents believed at first that an earthquake had occurred. Every window pane in the telegraph office at Colon, 45 miles away, was shattered. The telegraph line was severed at the scene of the explosion and the first knowledge of it was communicated from Terrace, where the people saw a tremendous cloud of smoke arise, indicating that a calamity of some kind had taken place. This word was quickly sent on to Lucin and a lineman went out on a handcar to ascertain the exact nature of the trouble, and to reexact nature of the trouble, and to re-pair the telegraph line. On the way he met a train carrying the wounded. FIRST OFFICIAL NEWS.

The arrival of this special train at Lucin gave the first official news of the disaster to the division superintendent's office. The trainmen wired Superintendent Scott that in a collision of extendent Scott that in a collision of ex-tra train, engine 2116, eastbound, and extra train, engine 2833, westbound, at Jackson Point, men, women and child-ren had been blown to pieces, many persons had been injured, a telegraph station had been reduced to splinters and consumed in flames, and two engines had been demolished, one of them being stripped of cab, side rods and everything movable.

THE EARTH TORN UP.

At Jackson, as mute evidence of the havoc, there is a hole in the earth almost large enough to have buried both trains. For hundreds of feet in all directions pieces of human bodies were found. One of the Greeks was found with his head blown off, and the children of Foreman Burke were found legless and armless. The injured were covered with blood, and a majority of the victims had their clothes torn from them by the force of the explosion. One witness stated that he walked to where the children lay, naked to throw garments over them. Near them was the mother, then the father, and a short distance beyond, the brother. The Burke family was stricken from the earth as one person. Of 46 persons at Jackson, only nine escaped without injury. Five of the nine were a quarter of a mile away.

Five hundred yards of track was torn up and three miles of telegraph

NARROW ESCAPES.

Narrow escapes were numerous. Conductor S. J. Courtney, who was on a gravel train, was passing from the caboose to the engine when the explo-sion occurred. The concussion caught him in the back and side, tearing a square piece of cloth from his coat as neatly as a tailor could have done with a pair of shears. The conductor was carrried 50 feet, but his injuries are not serious. E. D. Butler, another employe, was thrown down and severely bruised, but heroically went to the relief of the injured, tearing his coat into shreds for bandages. A brakeman named Vosberg was carried some distance through the air, but got off with slight

At the Ogden general hospital a corps of nurses worked for hours un-der the direction of Drs. Gordon, Joyce and Perkins. The last named, surgeon for the Southern Pacific, stated that only two of the injured had poor chances of recovery. They are Greeks whose deaths are expected at any time. John Contis, a well known merchant of Ogden, is a brother of the dead man by that name. The victim has a wife and four children in Greece.

OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. The county officials of Boxelder

county went to the scene of the catastrophe on a special train, preparatory to an inquest. The bodies of the dead will be prepared for burial at Ogden.

#### R. S. WATSON DEAD.

Well Known Traveling Salesman Answers the Roll Call to "Other Side."

R. S. Watson, well known throughout Utah as a traveling salesman, died at 2 o'clock this morning at 1652 south State street. His demise was due to a complication of troubles, chief among which was dropsy of the lungs.

Mr. Watson would have been 67 years of age next month. He was a native of a boy, and to Utah in 1861. Soon after Destructive Apartment House Fire Today. Scotland, but came to this country as his arrival in Salt Lake he was given a contract to dig a cellar for Z. C. M. I., and from that day he was in the employ of the firm until about eight years ago, when he accepted a position as traveling salesman for F. H. Auerbach. During the term of his employment with Z. C. M. I. Mr. Watson worked his way up steadily, finally becoming superintendent of both the Ogden and the Logan branches of the big store. In those positions he made an enviable record, and after six years of such service at Logan was sent east to buy goods, and on his return was reappointed manager of the Logan branch, but resigned in 1891 to engage in the hotel business. Later he became identified with Auer-bach & Bro. of this city.

On the road he was very popular; al-ways genial, and a good story teller, he created a wide circle of friends and acquaintancs. His reminiscences of early days, a subject he loved to dwell on, have been listened to with rapt attention by hundreds, usually in quiet country hotels on evenings that would otherwise have been dull.

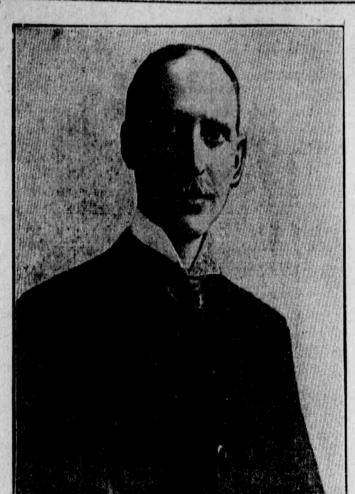
For a year or more Mr. Watson has been in ill health. He underwent several operations in San Francisco eight or ten months ago, being a sufferer from bronchitis at the time, and he never quite got over the effects of those operations.

The deceased leaves only one near relative-Mrs. Leo Clawson, his daughter. The funeral will take place Mon-day at 11 o'clock at the residence.

#### The Abbot, 2:034, Dead

EXCITEMENT IN OGDEN.

Meanwhile, Ogden was in a fever of excitement over the disaster. When the train bearing the injured drew into the



PERRY S. HEATH WHO FINALLY QUIT. Tenders His Resignation as Secretary of the National Republican Committee.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 20 .- Perry S. Heath, former first assistant postmastergeneral and secretary of the Republican national committee, wired his resignation of the latter position today to Acting Chairman Payne at Washington,

"Due to the death of Chairman Hanna, I tender to you my resignation as secretary of the Republican national committee, effective immediately."

Mr. Heath stated that the telegram told the entire story and he had nothing to add to it.

# OF HER SUSPECTS.

Those Under Police Surveillance Will Be Allowed to Enter the Army as Privates.

#### **JEWS PROVE THEIR PATRIOTISM**

Forty-Five Hebrews Doctors Throw up Their Practise in Order to go To the Front.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.-According to the terms of an imperial order just issued political suspects under police surveillance are permitted to enter the army in the field as privates, after which the minister of the interior and the minister of justice can order the withdrawal of police supervision over such persons.

Another decree appoints a special commission under the presidency of hereditary Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, brother of the czar, to arrange for the most speedy construction of submarine boats, cruisers and other vessels, to meet the expense of which

a public subscription has been started by the press.

With reference to the stories of a disaster to the Russian troops at Lake Baikal, (one report saying that three regiments were drowned while at-tempting to cross the ice-covered lake), it is explained that the Trans-Balkal line was blocked at the Balkal station during the night of Feb. 18 by an avalanche of snow which fell from a neighboring mountain. A train having troops on board dashed into the obstruction, the locomotive was derailed and in the succeeding five cars one sol-

A disastrous fire occurred at noon to-

day in a frame terrace of four apart-

ments on Fifth South and West Tem-

ple street, caused by the explosion of a

gasoline stove. Two alarms came in-

the first by telephone, which gave the

location of the fire as 76 west First

South street. The apparatus from No.

1 responded, but by the time it had reached the point named, a second

This one was from box 36, situated at

Fifth South and West Temple street.

The truck from No. 1 and the hose

wagon from No. 2, Chief Devine and

When the firemen arrived, the blaze

was apparently confined to the kitchen in the residence of R. G. Hartley, dep-

uty city recorder, at 76 west Fifth South

street. Chief Devine ordered the chem-

ical stream turned on the blaze and just

as he supposed the fire was under con-

as he supposed the fire was under control, flames began to leap out from different points in the roof. The fire had got through a trap door from the kitchen and spread rapidly to the roof, and in spite of all their efforts, gained rapid headway. It burned into the apartments occupied by F. H. Groschell, B. Heymenson and F. L. Boynton, at Nos. 78, 74 and 72.

Assistant Chief Wood responded.

alarm came.

was expected to be resumed the following day,
Further advices from Port Arthur to-

day say that all the women and chil-dren and most of the male citizens have left that place and practically only the

garrison remains.

The wave of patriotism sweeping over the empire seems to be swamping racial feeling, even the wild tribes of the Caucasus, the discontented Finns and sullen Poles forgetting their grievances and coming forward to volunteer their services to the common fatherland. An instance of devotion among the czar's Hebrew subjects is afforded by the act of 45 Jewish doctors in throwing up their practise to go to the front. fore leaving they attended a service held in a synagogue here. Rabbi Dra-bin made a fervent address to a large congregation which included Baron Ginzberg and other Jewish notables.

He said: 'Our fatherland is passing through a difficult epoch. The moment has come when you, my brothers, must show the whole world that you are not unworthy sons of your country and that although standing apart before the altar of reli-gion you are united with other citizens before the altar of patriotism and are ready with all the czar's faithful lieges to sacrifice yourselves for the father-land. Remember that Russia is strong, not only in arms, but in God's bless-

After the service the congregation sang the national hymn. The czarina who continues to take great persona interest in the work of providing for the sick and wounded of the war, presided today at a special meeting of the ladies' patriotic society which was attended by several grand duchesses and others of the highest ladies in the land, and presided at a service held at the Winter palace, at which the girls of the imperial schools acted as choris-

During a discussion in regard to utilizing the services unsparingly offered by the girlhood and womanhood of Russia for the relief of the wounded, the czarina proposed temporarily to susspend the studies in the girls' schools in order that the girls might be able to devote the school hours to sewing. The suggestion was applauded but no definite action was taken. Her majesty, who is an expert needle woman, has done much to encourage sewing among

Russian society women.

Now that the government has officially recognized the public subscription to provide war vessels to replace those destroyed by the enemy, the newspapers are discussin gthe best type of vessel, opinion veering from submarine boats to torpedo boat destroyers. A service dier was killed, five were severely in-jured and 14 were slightly hurt. Traffic take too long to build, adding that it able.

Hill Terrace Badly Damaged by the Flames at Corner of West Temple and Fifth South

Streets at Noon-Caused by Explosion of Gasoline Stove in Rooms of

R. G. Hartley-Loss \$4,000.

Devine ordered a stream of water from the big hose, and from then on until

fire was finally extinguished

fight was a terrific one. As fast as it was put out in one place, it broke out in another, and extended along the roof

of the entire terrace. The structure was three stories and a half, frame, and owned by Col. Hill. For a time it looked

like the entire building was doomed, but Chief Devine's men worked heroically to keep the flames in check while neigh-bors assisted in carrying out valuables.

Practically all the furniture was saved, even to a couple of planes in the homes

of Mr. Heymenson and Mr. Groschell, While Assistant Chief Wood and

Firemen Drake and Carlson were working on a ladder at the Hartley resi-

dence, the flames burst out on them and drove them back. Just as they moved away, the cornice fell with a crash. The firemen returned to their

task and succeeded in check-ing the flames at that point. In the meantime Chief Devine was doing all he could to check the fire at other points and giving order to his

many assisted in carrying out furni-ture. Sergeant Roberts and several of-ficers soon established a fle line to keep

the crowd back, but before the officers arrived, several valuable articles were stolen from the burning places. From Mr. Hartley's residence, some sneak thief stole a purse containing \$30. Mr. Hartley at the stole approach the stole as the stole as the stole as the stole of the stole as the stole of the

Hartley, at the risk of being seriously | but a nominal loss,

Quickly taking in the situation, Chief burned, ran through the flames and

any injury.

points and giving order to his
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prefers powerful torpedo boats and sug-gests that they be built where the Japanese got theirs.

Financial circles approve the action

of the imperial bank in selling London, Parls and Berlin bills cheaper than before the war, believing this measure will thwart the speculators in those centers where they are trying to force down the price of the rouble.

#### CORP. AYALA CAUGHT.

Constabulary Ringleader Tried And Sentenced to be Hanged.

Manila, Feb. 20,-Corporal Ayala, ringleader of the members of the stabulary, who recently revolted at Vigan, Luzon, was captured last Monday. He has since been tried, convicted and sentenced by the court at Vigan to be hanged. Very few of the men who deserted their posts remain uncaptured, and most of the arms and ammunition they took with them has been recovered. A reward of \$2,500 has been offered for the capture of Ricarte, the revolutionary leader.

The United States protected cruisers Cincinnati and Albany of Rear Admiral Evans' fleet have sailed for Shanghai.

KAISER TO TRAVEL. He Will Start for a Tour of the

Mediterranean March S. Berlin, Feb. 20.-Emperor William starts for the Mediterranean on Monday, March 8, joining the imperial yacht Hohenzollern at Messina, Sicily. When the first news of the outbreak of war between Russia and Japan was communicated to his majesty, he gave up his proposed trip, but, as the inter-national situation became calm he again announced his intention of tak-ing a holiday. The empress' health prevents her from accompanying the em-peror to the Mediterranean.

#### INSANE ASYLUM BURNED,

One Hundred and Thirty-Three Patients Escaped Unhurt.

Racine, Wis., Feb. 20 .- All that remains of the Racine county insane asylum is smouldering ashes, the loss ag-gregating \$115,000. All of the 133 patients escaped, though rescue in many cases was accomplished with difficulty as some of the inmates fought their rescuers and tried to plunge back into the burning building.

The patients were all finally assem-bled and brought to the city on a special train, where they were cared for at the city hall, the police offices and the courthouse. Merchants offered bedding and clothing liberally. Many of the patients were thinly clad and suffered much from the severe cold.

Fatal Powder Mill Explosion.

Paterson, N. J., Feb. 20.—An explo-ion at the Laflin & Rand powder mills at Wayne, seven miles from here, today caused the death of three men. The mills were wrecked.

#### RUSSIANS ARE SORE TOWARDS UNITED STATES.

It is Incomprehensible to Them Why, as They See it, This Country Should Turu Against Russia.

Chicago, Feb. 20 .- "Russia will look on the present attitude of the United States toward her as a visitation of divine justice because she did not heed the appeals from the Boers for help during their struggle against Great Britain," said Baron Eugene de Fersen. a Russian nobleman, cousin of Baron

A. A. Schlippenbach, Russian consul at Chicago, who is here on a visit. "Time and again," continued the baron, "did President Kruger appeal to Russia for sympathy and help against England, and as often did the Russian government refuse to ald the Boers.
"In the conquest of the Philippines by

the United States, no note of protest was heard from Russia. But when Russia peaceably occupies Manchuria, pour-ing millions of roubles into the development of the country and its great re-sources, does the United States hold aloof from our affairs? No. There has developed in the United States a great interest in the preservation of the integrity of China. Protest is made to Russia.

Russians why the United States, whom we have always looked upon as our friend, should so turn upon us.

#### BALTIMORE FIRE VICTIM. One Charred Body Found in the Ruins.

Baltimore, Feb. 20.—It was thought not a life was lost in the fire here, but a charred body has been found in the water at Bowler's wharf. The body is so badly burned as to be unrecogniz-able.

saved a casket containing a number of

A. E. Wellington, father of Mrs. Boyn

ton, was sick in the latter residence, suffering from neuralgia. He arose fom his sick bed, dressed himself and

got out of the place without sustaining

It is estimated that the loss will

reach between \$4,000 and \$5,000, but the

exact amount cannot be ascertained

chance to look about them. The loss on Heymonson's place is estimated at

\$2,000, with insurance at \$750. The loss on the Boynton property will reach at least \$800, with no insurance. It is quite certain that Mr. Hartley sustained the greatest loss, while Groshell was the most fortunate of all

The first alarm came in, giving the wrong number, at 11:50. The second

extinguished by the chemical and with

the most fortunate of all.

woman

learned,

very valuable diamonds.

During the excitement a

whose name could not be

fainted and was carried to

where she was quickly revived.

## LIFE AND DEATH.

Lorenzo Crosby, a "Mormon" Missionary, Shoots Himself While Returning Home.

#### ONE BULLET IN HIS BRAIN.

Shooting Occurred Near Kansas City, Mo .- Was a Resident of Arizona.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20.-Lorenzo Crosby, said to be an Elder in the 'Mormon" Church, while on route from Atlanta, Ga., where he had been stationed until recently, to Holbrook, Ariz., shot and fatally wounded himself in a berth in a Pullman sleeper on the southbound Chicago & Alton train near Higbee, Mo. He was brought to Kansas City and placed in the city hospital, where it is said he cannot live longer than 24 hours.

Until 1902 Crosby was stationed at Richmond, Va., and was a member of the Virginia conference of the "Mormon" Church. Later he was transferred to Atlanta, where he has lived until recently. Crosby was unconscious when brought to this city. In his pockets were found two letters, one signed Mollie Crosby, from Greer, Ariz., apparently from his wife, and which indicated domestic trouble, and another signed Olive, from 353 west Fifth South street, Salt Lake City.

SHOT HIMSELF TWICE. Crosby shot himself twice, one bullet penetrating his brain. He was treat-

ed by a railway surgeon who occupied a berth in the same car with him, but little could be done for the man. CONDUCT NOT UNUSUAL.

The trainmen said that there had been nothing unusual in the conduct of Crosby. He retired late last night. Crosby wore clothes of a clerical character, and carried with him the re-port book used by Elders in the "Mormon" Church, besides some memoran-dum books. His report book indicated active work for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Virginia, but there is no record of his work in

but there is no record of his work in Atlanta, and there are indications that his stay there was brief.

WHO THE YOUNG MAN IS. As intimated in the dispatch from Kansas City, Lorenzo Crosby, the man who shot himself near Higbee, Mo., this morning, is a "Mormon" missionary who has been laboring for the past two years in the Southern states. His home is at Eagar, Ariz., which was doubtless his destination at the time of the la-

mentable affair noted above.
Elder Crosby is the son of George H.
and Sarah Ann Brown Crosby, and was
born Feb. 23, 1876, at Hebron, Washington Co., Utah, being therefore 28 years of age. He was set apart to do mis-sionary work April 7, 1902, and had evidently been released to return home.

FELLOW MISSIONARY'S ADDRESS.

The address, "353 W. Fifth South street, Salt Lake City," is the home of Elder Alfred Langston, a fellow missionary, on whose family Elder Crosby had probably been asked to call, on reaching this city. So far as known he had no relatives in Salt Lake, and his only purpose in calling here would be to report at Church headquarters before continuing his journey home.

CAUSE NOT KNOWN.

Nothing is known here of family trouoles, nor will the exact cause of the tragedy be learned until such time as word has been received either from President Rich or the young man's folks in Arizona. Meanwhile particulars will be awaited with interest.

#### IN WITH KOREA.

Transport Sent to Remove Americans from There.

New York, Feb. 20.—Disquieting news regarding disturbances in north Korea has been received, says a Her-ald dispatch from Chemulpo, dated U. S. Minister Allen is sending the transport Zafiro to remove the American women and children from the Ping

Yang district to Chemulpo. The men will remain there for the present. There are about 40 American esidents in the district, including children.

A dispatch from Seoul says an American gold mining company which has been operating a valuable concession 60 miles from the Korean frontier at Wiju and employs over 70 Americans. Wiju and employs over to American fears trouble from Chinese and Korean bandits infesting that region, Korean bandits infesting that region, local manager has telegraphed for pro-

If the surface machinery and work ings are destroyed the company will sustain heavy financial loss and work be set back three years.

#### GERMANY IN LINE. Will Tell Russia and Japan She Adheres to Hay's Note.

Berlin, Feb. 20 .- The foreign office eral days ago instructed the German ambassador at St. Petersburg and the minister of Germany at Tokio to communicate to the governments to which they are accredited Germany's adher-ence to the principles contained in Secy. Hay's note on the neutrality of China. Both powers gave a general assurance that those principles were acceptable

Wreck on the Pennsylvania. Fort Wayne, Ind., Feb. 20.—Pennsylvania passenger No. 6 leaving Chicago vania passenger No. 6 leaving Chicago at midnight was wrecked today at Hobart, Ind., in a head-on collision with a freight train. Charles Strayer, baggageman, was killed, and Mail Clerks Bricker and Bowers, and two passengers, E. C. Weisenberger and C. F. Haverin and S. A. Lind, fireman, were seriously injured. The baggage and express cars were telescoped and an express car and both locomotives were badly smashed.

### FIRST ENCOUNTER ON LAND OCCURS.

A Picket of Cossacks Attack a Detachment of Japanese on Korean Territory.

#### WAS NO GENERAL ENGAGEMENT

It is Said That the Koreans are Show. ing a Friendly Feeling Towards The Russians.

EVENTS BEFORE THE RUPTURE.

Russia Gives Account for Purpose of Rectifying Certain Statements From Japanese.

#### LATEST WAR BULLETIN.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20 .- Maj .-Gen. Pflug, the chief of staff of Viceroy Alexieff, telegraphed from Port Arthur today as fol-

lows: "The situation at Port Arthur is unchanged. A. Sotnia, of Cossacks, marching from Wiju, captured Japanese major, Tatsaru, with five soldiers and two

civilians. "The reports regarding the enemy are generally contradic-

tory and scarce. "It is confirmed that troops of Yuan Shai Kai (commander-inchief of the Chinese army), are being dispatched to Tsin Chou

and Kupantze. "All is quiet in Manchuria."

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20 .- A dispatch from Port Arthur today says the first land encounter occurred yesterday. A picket of Cossacks attacked a small detachment of Japanese troops on Korean territory. The Cossacks captured some Japanese prisoners, on whom they found maps and papers.

The collision was presumably between reconnoitering parties. A general engagement is not anticipated immediately.

A special Port Arthur dispatch says the Japanese fleet was observed Feb. 13 cruising off that port. Reports from northern Korea say the

Koreans are showing a decidedly friendly attitude to the Russians. The Manchurian railroad is conveying troops without difficulty to the various points of concentration.

Native reports say that the Chinese pirates, since the outbreak of hostilities. have been displaying such activity in eastern Asiatic waters as to almost

paralyze the coasting trade. JUST BEFORE THE RUPTURE.

A Russian account of the events immediately preceding the rupture with Japan is published in the Official Mes-senger today with "the object of rectifying certain statements from Japan-ese sources." In this account it is stated that on receipt of the late Jap-anese proposals, Jan. 16, the govern-ment immediately proceeded to examine the Japanese demands and on Jan. 25. M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, was informed in reply to his inquiry that the czar had entrusted the pro-posals to a special conference, the mem-bers of which would meet Jan. 28 and that his majesty's decision would prob-ably not be given before Feb. 2. On the last named date Emperor Nicholas ordered the preparation of a draft of definitive instructions to Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister to Japan, based on the deliberations of this conference. On Feb. 2 identical telegrams were sent to Vicercy Alexieff and Baron de Rosen, containing the text of the draft of the proposed Russo-Japanese agreement, with a full statement of the reasons which perpendicular terms of the reasons of the reasons which prompted Russia to modify the Japanese proposals, and general instructions to Baron de Rosen concerning the presentation of the reply to the Japanese government. Forty-eight hours before the receipt of the news of the rupture Foreign Minister Lamsdorff notified M. Kurino of the dispatch of the Russian reply. On Feb. office of Baron de Rosen's receipt of the reply. On Feb. 6, at 4 p. m., M. Kurino quite unexpectedly handed to Count quite unexpectedly handed to Count Lamsdorff two notes, notifying him of the rupture of diplomatic relations and adding that he, M. Kurino, and his staff would leave St. Petersburg Feb. 20. These notes were accompanied by a public letter from M. Kurino to Count Lamsdorff, expressing the hope that the rupture of relations would be confined to the shortest possible time. On the same day Viceroy Alexieff, Baron de Rosen and all the Russian representatives at Pekin, Tokio and the capitals tives at Pekin. Tokic and the capitals of the great powers, were informed by urgent telegrams of the rupture of relations and of the issue of an imperial order withdrawing the Russian legation from Tokio, and laying on Japan the responsibility for all consequences ensuing. The communication con-The communication

cludes "Although the breaking off of diplomatic relations by no means implied the opening of hostilities the Japanese government as early as the night of Feb. 8, and during Feb. 9 and Feb. 10, committed a whole series of revolting attacks on Russian warships and merchantmen, attended by violations of in-ternational law. The decree of the em-peror of Japan declaring war was not issued until Feb. 11."

In the House.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The house to-day went into committee of the whole and resumed consideration of the naval appropriation ball. Mr. Dayton (W. Va.), spoke for the bill.